



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FORM CD-260
REV. 6-86
DAO 202-335

MERIT PROGRAM

Announcement Number: **PTO-06-016**
Issue Date: **1/30/06**
Closing Date: **2/21/06**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TITLE, SERIES, AND GRADE

Patent Review Quality Assurance Specialist
GS-1220-15
Position is at the full performance level
Multiple positions
Competitive Service
Non Bargaining Unit

VACANCY LOCATION

Patent and Trademark Office
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations
Office of Patent Quality Assurance

AREA OF CONSIDERATION

PTO Employees with Status
DOC Surplus, Displaced Employees in
local commuting area

DUTIES:

Conducts a quality review of a sample of patent applications (in-process and allowed) in a Electrical discipline selected from each of the Art Units of the Patent Examining Corps. The quality review is conducted on three major aspects of the patent examining process namely: (1) correctness of the field of search (2) patentability of the claims in view of prior art or other reasons, and (3) compliance with examining practices and procedures. Independently reviews sampled applications as assigned and return via the Quality Supervisor to the examining group any reviewed applications in which a question on (1), (2), or (3) above is raised. Participates with Quality Supervisors, Group directors, SPEs and Examiners in discussion on the merits of issues in applications returned to the Group.

Identifies areas in the examination process to be targeted for continuous quality improvement (CQI) plans. Evaluates the quality of the work produced in the Technology Centers, analyzes data for quality-related trends, and recommends CQI initiatives to the Quality supervisors and the Director of the Office of Patent Quality Assurance. Establishes, coordinates and provides leadership for CQI efforts. The incumbent will serve as liaison to other PTO offices as related to quality issues.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must have had one year of experience which has equipped them with particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position, which is typical to the work of the position to be filled, and is equivalent to the next lower grade in the Federal Service. Status applicants considered under Merit Program Procedures are subject to time-in-grade requirements in accordance with 5 CFR 300.604. CTAP/ICTAP candidates will be determined to be well qualified if they score 90 or higher when rated against the crediting plan.

EVALUATION OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES:

will be on the basis of experience, training, awards, supervisory appraisals, and the following factors. **Failure to address each factor may have an impact upon your ranking.**

1. Ability to find, understand and recognize pertinent art in broad areas of the specialized technology electrical and the ability to apply that art to claims.
2. Ability to identify and analyze problems independently in the prosecution of applications in view of current office practices and procedures.
3. Ability to examine complex technology.
4. Knowledge of patent laws, precedents, rules, decisions, etc.
5. Ability to present oral and written statements clearly and in a tactful manner.

SELECTIVE FACTOR: Candidate must possess the following for consideration:

1. Applicant must have full signatory authority.
2. Applicant must have passed the certification examination or have passed the agent's examination.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

How To Apply - SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

1. Candidates may submit a SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, an OF-612 or resume.
2. Most recent supervisory appraisal and a recent copy of a SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action (Status Candidates Only)
3. Vacancy announcement number, position title and grade level(s) you are applying for must be recorded on the application submitted. If the grade level is not indicated, candidates will be considered only at the highest grade for which qualified.
4. Statement of qualifications relating to the Selective Factor and each of the Ranking Factors.

FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION CALL: GAIL ZAMPERINI (571) 272-6182 TDD# 1-800-828-1120 or Relay System

For more employment opportunities visit our web site at WWW.USPTO.GOV.

MAILING ADDRESS :

US Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop 171
Office of Human Resources
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

WHERE TO APPLY IN PERSON :

US Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Human Resources
Elizabeth Townhouse
Customer Service Center, 1a79
550 Elizabeth Lane
Alexandria, VA 22314



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE COLOR, SEX, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, LAWFUL POLITICAL AFFILIATION, NON-DISQUALIFYING HANDICAP, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AFFILIATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION, OR OTHER NON-MERIT FACTOR.

I. REGARDLESS OF WHICH APPLICATION FORM/FORMAT IS USED, APPLICANTS SHOULD ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

1. **The announcement number, title and grade of the position for which you are applying.**
2. **Personal information**
 - a. Full name, mailing address (including ZIP Code), home and work telephone numbers (including area codes)
 - b. Social security number
 - c. Country of citizenship
 - d. Veteran's preference: If you wish to claim 5-point veterans preference or if you are applying under the Veterans Readjustment Appointment provisions, you must include dates of military service and a copy of each Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD-214. If you are claiming 10-point veterans preference, you must also include SF-15 and the appropriate proof required by that form.
 - e. Competitive status: if you are a current or former Federal employee, and if the announcement is open to status applicants only or if you wish to be considered as a status applicant, you must submit a copy of your SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, which shows you have status.
 - f. Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been separated from the armed forces with honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service may apply. (Under merit promotion procedures.)
 - g. Highest federal civilian grade held, including job series and dates held.
3. **Education**
 - a. High school - name, city, state and ZIP Code (if known) and date you received diploma or GED.
 - b. Colleges and universities - name, city, state and ZIP Code (if known), majors(s), type(s) of degree(s) received and date(s) received. If you did not receive a degree, show total credits earned and indicate whether semester or quarter hours. Submit copies of undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts if the announcement specifies minimum education requirements, if you are qualifying based on allowable substitution of education for experience or if you are qualifying based on Superior Academic Achievement (see the announcement for details).
4. **Job-Related Work Experience (Paid and Non paid)**
 - a. Job title (include series and grade if Federal)
 - b. Duties and accomplishments
 - c. Employer's name and address
 - d. Supervisor's name and telephone number
 - e. Starting and ending dates (month and year)
 - f. Hours per week,
 - g. Salary
 - h. Indicate if we may contact your current supervisor.
5. **Other Qualifications**
 - a. Job-related training courses (title and year)
 - b. Job-related skills (i.e., other languages, computer hardware/software, tools machinery, etc.)
 - c. Typing and/or stenography speed
 - d. Job-related certificates and licenses (current only). Do not send copies unless required in the announcement.
 - e. Job-related honors, awards and special accomplishments (i.e., publications, memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities, public speaking, performance awards, etc.) Give dates but do not send documents unless requested.

II. CTAP/ICTAP

1. CTAP candidates must apply for the vacancy, submit proof of eligibility for CTAP consideration, have a current performance rating of record of at least fully successful or the equivalent, and be within the Washington, D.C. Commuting area.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Applications mailed in Government franked envelopes will not be considered.
2. Applications submitted by telefax will not be considered.
3. Applications submitted by email will not be considered.
4. Applications submitted by mail with a postmark of on or before the closing date of this announcement will be considered only if received in the USPTO, Office of Human Resources, within five (5) working days of the closing date.
5. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements by the closing date of the vacancy announcement.
6. Applicants must be citizens of the United States (or owe allegiance to the United States).
7. Applicants with disabilities, disabled veterans, or any other applicants eligible for non-competitive appointment under special appointing authorities not requiring competitive status should clearly specify their special eligibility on their application.
8. If selected, male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must confirm their selective service registration status. Certification forms are available at most Federal agency personnel offices or from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.
9. Applications will not be returned to applicants.
10. Applicants will receive notification of the outcome of a vacancy announcement as soon as possible after a selection is made.
11. If a vacancy is for a supervisory or managerial position, the selectee may have to serve a supervisory/managerial probationary period.
12. If a vacant position is filled at a grade below the full performance level, the selectee may be promoted without further competition. However, this implies no promise or guarantee of promotion.

NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS: US Patent and Trademark Office programs are accessible to people with disabilities. This document will be converted to an appropriate alternative form for applicants with disabilities. Requests for this or other assistance and accommodation should be directed to the contact above.



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- 13. Qualification requirements in the vacancy announcement are based on OPM Qualifications Standards for General Schedule positions.
- 14. Privacy Act requirements (PL 93-579): the application forms prescribed are used to determine qualification for promotion, reassignment, or employment and are authorized under Title 5, U.S.C. sections 3302 and 3360.
- 15. Candidates outside of the USPTO who are referred for consideration will be required to complete the Declaration for Federal Employment, OF-306.
- 16. For any vacancy, employees of the Department of Commerce may be considered before other applicants.
- 17. Relocation expenses will not be covered.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If a reasonable accommodation is needed for any part of the application process, please notify the human resources representative identified under the 'How To Apply' section of this announcement. Decisions on reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.